

Epi Update for Friday, April 26, 2019
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's Epi Update include:

- **U.S. measles case count highest since disease “eliminated” in 2000**
- **Epi Quiz**
- **Program area spotlight: Foodborne illness epidemiology**
- **In the news: *Salmonella* outbreak linked to precut melons sickens 117 people in 10 states**
- **In the news: World's first malaria vaccine program launches in Malawi**
- **Infographic: Gear up for food safety!**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

U.S. measles case count highest since disease “eliminated” in 2000

Nearly 700 cases of measles have been reported in the U.S. this year, already the highest number of cases reported in a single year since measles was considered eliminated from the U.S. in 2000. Two cases have been reported in Iowa in 2019 - an unvaccinated individual who was exposed in Israel and a household contact of the infected individual.

Decreasing vaccination uptake combined with the introduction of illness from other places in the world has contributed to this rise in U.S. cases. Often vaccine hesitancy is fueled by misinformation regarding the safety of childhood vaccinations. CDC and many professional organizations are actively combatting misinformation by crafting consistent, easy to understand, scientifically-accurate information to help parents make informed decisions.

For general vaccine safety information for parents from CDC, including FAQ, printable vaccine guides, videos and more, visit www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/caregivers/index.html.

For information from CDC for parents specifically regarding the safety of MMR vaccines, visit www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/vaccines/mmr-vaccine.html.

Epi Quiz

Answers available at the bottom of the Epi Update

1. CDC stands for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, formerly the Centers for Disease Control, and before that the Center for Disease Control. What was it called originally, up until 1970 (still abbreviated CDC)?
2. Louis Pasteur and his colleague Emile Roux developed the first rabies vaccine from the dried spinal cords of infected:
 - A) Chicks
 - B) Ducklings
 - C) Rabbits
 - D) Cows
 - E) Lambs

Quiz questions compliments of Richard Danila, Minnesota Department of Health

Program area spotlight: Foodborne illness epidemiology

IDPH maintains a team of epidemiologists and student interviewers dedicated to the active surveillance of foodborne illnesses. These epidemiologists review all enteric disease case reports, identifying clusters and investigating outbreaks - including multi-state outbreaks. In 2018, the foodborne team, in collaboration with CDC, DIA, SHL and local public health partners, investigated four notable large outbreaks (two *Salmonella* and two *Cyclospora*) that sickened a total of 478 Iowans. The foodborne team also coordinates Iowa's foodborne illness complaint line: 844-IowaSIC. Since its launch in September 2016, the foodborne illness complaint line has received 1,063 complaints and aided in the detection of 105 outbreaks.

For more information about foodborne illness in Iowa, visit idph.iowa.gov/cade/foodborne-illness.

In the news: *Salmonella* outbreak linked to pre-cut melons sickens 117 people in 10 states

www.cnn.com/2019/04/24/health/salmonella-outbreak-melon-recall-caito-foods-trnd/index.html

In the news: World's first malaria vaccine program launches in Malawi

www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2019/04/worlds-first-malaria-vaccine-program-launches-malawi

Infographic: Gear up for food safety!



To view in full size, visit

www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/images/gear-up/gear-up-thermometer-twitter.jpg

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a healthy and happy week!

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Epi Quiz answers:

1. Communicable Disease Center

2. C, Rabbits